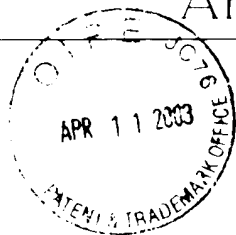


# ARNOLD & PORTER



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April 11, 2003

Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

**Attn: Box Non-Fee Amendment**

Re: U.S. Patent Application No. 09 849,529  
Filed: May 7, 2001  
Title: **Nucleic Acid Molecules and Other Molecules Associated with Plants**  
Inventors: Karen L. FINCHER *et al.*  
Atty. Docket: 16517.247

Sir:

The following documents are forwarded herewith for appropriate action by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO):

1. Amendment and Response to Office Action Mailed January 13, 2003; and
2. Return postcard.

Please stamp the postcard with the filing date of these documents and return it to our courier.

In the event that extensions of time are necessary to prevent abandonment of this patent application, then such extensions of time are hereby petitioned. Applicants do not believe any fees are due in conjunction with this filing. However, if any fees under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17 are required in the present application, then the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge such fees to Arnold & Porter Deposit Account No. 50-2387, referencing matter number 16517.247. A duplicate copy of this letter is enclosed.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Holly Logue Prutz".



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of:

Karen L. FINCHER *et al.*

Appl. No.: 09 849,529

Filed: May 7, 2001

For: **Nucleic Acid Molecules and Other  
Molecules Associated with Plants**

Art Unit: 1631

Examiner: Michael L. BORIN

Atty. Docket: 16517.247

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**Amendment and Response to Office Action Mailed January 13, 2003**

Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

***Attn: Box Non-Fee Amendment***

Sir:

In response to the Office Action mailed January 13, 2003 (Paper Number 10),  
Applicants submit the following amendments and remarks.